

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9861

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 7473

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AU

SUBJECT: KREISKY COMMENT ON SAKHAROV

1. AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR KREISKY IN ADDRESS ENTITLED "OBSERVATIONS CONCERNING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN SCIENCE AND POLITICS IN THE INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY" TO ALPBACH FORUM SEPTEMBER 3 MADE FOLLOWING COMMENT RE SAKHAROV:

"AND IN CONCLUSION THE QUESTION? CAN ONE COMMENT ON SCIENCE AND POLITICS AT THIS JUNCTURE WITHOUT AT THE SAME TIME TAKING NOTE OF THOSE SCIENTISTS WHO TODAY LEAD THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM, TOLERANCE AND EQUALITY? AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GROUP, I WOULD ONLY LIKE TO MENTION ANDRIE SAKHAROV. THEY, THESE SCIENTISTS, ASKED UNDER VERY SPECIAL AND DANGEROUS CONDITIONS THE QUESTION WHICH EINSTEIN ONCE ASKED IN A LECTURE: 'HOW DOES ONE PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL? HOW DOES ONE CREATE OUT THEM A DEMOCRATIC COUNTERWEIGHT AGAINST THE BUREAUCRACY?' AND WE WOULD LIKE TO ADD, HOW DOES ONE PROTECT THOSE WHO HAVE THE COURAGE TO ASK THIS QUESTION IN THIS FASHION AND IN AN EVEN CLEARER FORM WHERE THE QUESTION CANNOT BE ASKED WITHOUT DANGER TO THEIR LIFE AND THEIR FREEDOM. IT IS HERE THAT THE SIMPLICITY OF THIS QUESTION IS TRANSFORMED INTO THAT PATHOS, WHICH APPEARS TO US TO BE AT THE SAME TIME THE BASIC ELEMENT OF DEMOCRACY AND OF SCIENCE, NAMELY THAT OF FREEDOM."

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2. KREISKY, ASKED TO COMMENT ON TASS AGENCY'S ATTACK ON HIS STATE-

MENT IN SUPPORT SAKHAROV, TOLD KRONEN-ZEITUNG SEPTEMBER 10 THAT "THIS IS QUESTION OF PRINCIPLE OF UN CHARTER, QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AND DO NOT FEEL LIKE CONTENDING WITH TASS ABOUT MY RIGHT TO EXPRESS MY OPINION ON SUCH QUESTIONS".

3. COMMENT: REACTION AMONG AUSTRIAN PUBLIC AND PRESS TO KREISKY'S TWITTING OF RUSSIAN BEAR ON ISSUE OF INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM IN SOVIET UNION IN GENERAL AND ON SAKHAROV CASE SPECIFICALLY HAS BEEN HIGHLY FAVORABLE. SOURCE CLOSE TO CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE TOLD US THAT KREISKY COMMENTARY SERVED USEFUL REMINDER TO SOVIETS THAT AUSTRIA, WHILE MILITARILY NEUTRAL, WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN STRONG PRO-WESTERN IDEOLOGICAL STANCE AND BY IMPLICATION WILL CONTINUE TO PROMOTE WITHIN CSCE FORUM NEED FOR EFFECTIVE ARRANGEMENTS RE FREER EAST-WEST MOVEMENT OF PEOPLES AND IDEAS. KREISKY'S REMARKS SHOULD ALSO PROVE HELPFUL TO SOCIALIST PARTY ON DOMESTIC POLITICAL SCENE, WHERE, IN OPENING ROUND OF ELECTION CAMPAIGN FOR KEY PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS IN LATE OCTOBER, PEOPLE'S PARTY (MAJOR OPPOSITION PARTY) HAS SOUGHT UNCONVINCINGLY AND WITHOUT BASIS IN FACT TO CHARGE KREISKY GOVERNMENT WITH DRIFT TOWARD NEUTRALISM A LA FINLAND. HUMES

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